

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, retirement is something every American needs to prepare for, but with the prices of everything from college educations to gasoline as high as they are, putting away a money is difficult for many Americans. It is not made any easier by a government that takes about 40 percent away in taxes.

This week, the House is going to vote on a bill to make retirement easier for working Americans. We are going to increase IRA contribution limits from \$2,000 a year to \$5,000. We are going to increase the limit on 401(k) contributions to \$15,000. And we are going to allow people close to retirement an additional \$5,000 in catch-up contributions to their 401(k)'s.

Helping people keep more of their own money so they can invest it and retire comfortably is a cause every Member of this body should support. We have not increased IRA limits in 20 years. This legislation is long overdue.

Yes, Republicans passed this legislation before; but this time we have a President who will sign the bill. This time it will become law. I thank the President for joining us in doing the right thing.

ABOLISH THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a government investigation said that the IRS gave, quote-unquote, wrong information 50 percent of the time. In addition, they say one-third of all calls to the IRS go unanswered.

Unbelievable. According to my math, the IRS is upside down about 80 percent of the time. If that is not enough to give your 1040 a hernia, the IRS says, give us more money and we will solve our problems. Beam me up. The IRS does not need more money. Congress has got to abolish the IRS.

A recent national poll says 70 percent of American taxpayers favor the Tauzin-Trafficant 15 percent national sales tax. No more forms, no more tax on capital gains, savings, investment, education, inheritance. Think about it. And the IRS is abolished.

I yield back those stumbling, fumbling, bumbling, nincompoops at the IRS.

SCHOOL CHOICE WORKS

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, children should not be trapped in a failing school where they cannot possibly reach their fullest educational poten-

tial. That is why H.R. 1 includes a school choice program that enables parents to send their children to another school, public or private, after 3 years of chronic failure.

Public support for school choice is strong, especially among African Americans. A survey conducted in 1999 by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that approximately 60 percent of African Americans favored school choice. According to a bipartisan poll for the National Education Association conducted in February, 63 percent of Americans say they support President Bush's approach to school choice.

Moreover, school choice programs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Florida have met with significant success. Howard University's Jay P. Greene found that since Florida's A-Plus school choice program began, student test scores have improved across the board. There is evidence that the A-Plus program has compelled failing schools in Florida, now under the threat of losing their students, to improve performance.

It is our responsibility to empower parents to make the right decision for their children's future.

VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

(Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, I am here to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Puerto Rico to find a solution to the situation in Vieques. While we work toward that end, I must bring to your attention recent unfortunate events. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) was more than one of 150 protestors who committed the misdemeanor offense of trespassing on Federal lands. Some 72 hours after being arrested, our colleague was still detained. This after being denied a phone call for more than 24 hours and having spent a night on a rock strewn floor of an abandoned roofless dog kennel in the rain. I am outraged by the treatment of the detainees by Federal authorities and the use of excessive force against peaceful protestors.

I must address those who have used the issue of Vieques to call into question Puerto Rican commitment to the defense of this great Nation and the principles it represents. For over 100 years, Puerto Ricans have served with distinction and paid the ultimate sacrifice for the United States during war time. I quote Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, who said last week, "The patriotism of Puerto Ricans is absolutely certain. Their contribution to our military individually is extraordinary." With the same spirit that Puerto Rican soldiers have defended democracy and justice around

the world, today we defend the rise of the more than 9,000 U.S. citizens that live in Vieques.

Vieques is not a partisan issue. It is no longer a Puerto Rican issue. Vieques is an issue of health, environment, and human rights. Paz para Vieques.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE PHIL ENGLISH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable PHIL ENGLISH, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 27, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House, Capitol Building.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective April 27, 2001, I hereby resign from the Committee on Small Business. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please ask your staff to call my Administrative Assistant, Bob Holste at 5-5406.

Sincerely,

PHIL ENGLISH,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OF-

FICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,

Washington, DC, April 30, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1404 of Public Law 99-661 (20 U.S.C. 4703), I hereby appoint the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Mr. Ralph M. Hall, Texas.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. PETRI of Wisconsin; and

Mr. GALLEGLY of California.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion